(b) Prioritised projects are sanctioned and funds released on receipt of detailed proposals from the State Governments based on the merits of the projects and availability of funds.

Protection of rice field at Kalibangan, Rajasthan

3326. PROF. M. SANKARALINGAM: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item entitled, "ASI let geography bill a precious piece of history", which appeared in the Indian Express of 29th March, 2001;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the reasons for not making necessary efforts to protect the earliest rice field at Kalibangan in Hanumangarh district in Rajasthan well before it was excavated?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware.

(b) & (c) Kalibangan was excavated over 1961—69 and protected as a site of National Importance. The pre-Harappan ploughed field in the site is now covered with an Alkathene sheet over which a layer of earth has been placed.

Preservation of seven mummies in different museums

3327. DR. C. NARAYANA REDDY: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the condition of seven mummies in museums in Lucknow, Hyderabad, Baroda, Kolkata, Mumbai, Jaipur and Manipal is deteriorating.

(b) whether it is also a fact that a preservation expert of Cairo Museum, Egypt has been consulted in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the measures proposed to preserve the mummies?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI ANANTH KUMAR): (a) to (c) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.